CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a computerized device, a method for automatically producing a configuration for components of a network comprising:

receiving a selection of at least one network component graphic representing at least one network component for use in a network;

obtaining corresponding hardware configuration information associated with the at least one network component that corresponds to the selection of the at least one network component graphic;

receiving a selection of at least one software component graphic representing software for installation and operation on the at least one network component in the network, the software component graphic having associated software configuration information;

correlating the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software component graphic with network parameter information to form a correlation result representing an interoperability configuration of the software and the at least one network component; and

outputting the correlation result to support automatic configuration of the at least one network component and the software for operation on the at least one network component.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of correlating further comprises:

detecting an operability characteristic of the at least one network component based upon the correlation result; and

dynamically adjusting the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component when the operability characteristic indicates inoperability of the software and the at least one network component.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically creating deployment instructions, based on the correlation result, for installation of the software, represented by the selection of at least one software component graphic, onto the at least one network component.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of automatically creating comprises generating a markup language document indicating the deployment instructions for installation of the software, represented by the software component graphic, onto the at least one network component.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising executing the markup language document to install the software on the at least one network component.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of executing comprises retrieving the software from a storage location indicated by the markup language document.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining corresponding hardware configuration information comprises retrieving the hardware configuration information from the at least one network component corresponding to the selection of the at least one network component graphic.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a software identification request to identify software installed on at least one network component; and

retrieving a software identifier, in response to receiving the software identification request, the software identifier identifying installation of the software on at least one network component.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the network parameter information is a network parameter database of hardware component and software configuration combinations; and

wherein correlating the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software with network parameter information to form a correlation result comprises:

based on a type of network component graphic received, identifying a specific network component configuration within the network parameter database that supports operation of the selected at least one software component;

adjusting software configuration information associated with the selected at least one software component graphic to match corresponding values of the software configuration information defined in the network parameter database that allow the software to properly operate on the specific network component configuration;

adjusting hardware configuration information associated with the selected at least one network component graphic to match corresponding values of the hardware configuration information defined in the network parameter database that allow the network component to properly operate in conjunction with the adjusted software configuration information; and

producing the correlation result that identifies the adjusted software configuration information and the adjusted hardware configuration information for operation of the software on the at least one network component.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the at least one selected software component is at least one of:

i.) an application server software application;

ii.) a directory server software application;

iii.) a mail server software application;

iv.) a web server software application; and

v.) a portal server software application.

11. A computerized device comprising:

at least one communications interface;

a controller; and

an interconnection mechanism coupling the at least one communications interface and the controller;

wherein the controller is configured to:

receive a selection of at least one network component graphic representing at least one network component for use in a network;

obtain corresponding hardware configuration information associated with the at least one network component that corresponds to the selection of the at least one network component graphic;

receive a selection of at least one software component graphic representing software for installation and operation on the at least one network component in the network, the software component graphic having associated software configuration information;

correlate the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software component graphic with network parameter information to form a correlation result representing an interoperability configuration of the software and that at least one network component; and

output the correlation result to support automatic configuration of the at least one network component and the software for operation on the at least one network component.

12. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the controller, when correlating, is further configured to:

detect an operability characteristic at least one network component based upon the correlation result; and

dynamically adjust the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component when the operability characteristic indicates inoperability of the software and the at least one network component.

13. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the controller is configured to automatically create deployment instructions, based on the correlation result, for installation of the software, represented by the selection of at least one software component graphic, onto the at least one network component.

14. The computerized device of claim 13 wherein the controller, when creating, is configured to create a markup language document indicating instructions for installation of the software, represented by the software component graphic, onto the at least one network component.

15. The computerized device of claim 14 wherein the controller is configured to execute the markup language document to install the software on the at least one network component.

16. The computerized device of claim 15 wherein the controller, when executing, is configured to retrieve the software from a storage location indicated by the markup language document.

17. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the controller, when obtaining corresponding hardware configuration information, is configured to retrieve the hardware configuration information from the at least one network component corresponding to the selection of the at least one network component graphic.

18. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein the controller is configured to:

receive a software identification request to identify software installed on at least one network component; and

retrieve a software identifier, in response to receiving the software identification request, the software identifier identifying installation of the software on at least one network component.

19. The computerized device of claim 11 wherein:

the network parameter information is a network parameter database of hardware component and software configuration combinations; and

when correlating the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software with network parameter information to form a correlation result, the controller is configured to:

based on a type of network component graphic received, identify a specific network component configuration within the network parameter database that supports operation of the selected at least one software component;

adjust software configuration information associated with the selected at least one software component graphic to match corresponding values of the software configuration information defined in the network parameter database that allow the software to properly operate on the specific network component configuration;

adjust hardware configuration information associated with the selected at least one network component graphic to match corresponding values of the hardware configuration information defined in the network parameter database that allow the network component to properly operate in conjunction with the adjusted software configuration information; and

produce the correlation result that identifies the adjusted software configuration information and the adjusted hardware configuration information for operation of the software on the at least one network component.

20. The computerized device of claim 19 wherein the at least one selected software component is at least one of:

i.) an application server software application;
ii.) a directory server software application;
iii.) a mail server software application;
iv.) a web server software application; and
v.) a portal server software application.

21. A computer program product having a computer-readable medium including computer program logic encoded thereon that, when performed on a controller in a computerized device having a coupling to at least one communications interface provides a method for performing the operations of:

receiving a selection of at least one network component graphic representing at least one network component for use in a network;

obtaining corresponding hardware configuration information associated with the at least one network component that corresponds to the selection of the at least one network component graphic;

receiving a selection of at least one software component graphic representing software for installation and operation on the at least one network component in the network, the software component graphic having associated software configuration information;

correlating the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software component graphic with network parameter information to form a correlation result representing an interoperability configuration of the software and that at least one network component; and

outputting the correlation result to support automatic configuration of the at least one network component and the software for operation on the at least one network component.

22. A computerized device comprising:

at least one communications interface;

a controller; and

an interconnection mechanism coupling the at least one communications interface and the controller;

wherein the computerized device is configured to produce a means for automatically producing a configuration for components of a network, such means including:

means for receiving a selection of at least one network component graphic representing at least one network component for use in a network;

means for obtaining corresponding hardware configuration information associated with the at least one network component that corresponds to the selection of the at least one network component graphic;

means for receiving a selection of at least one software component graphic representing software for installation and operation on the at least one network component in the network, the software component graphic having associated software configuration information;

means for correlating the hardware configuration information of the at least one network component and the software configuration information of the software component graphic with network parameter information to form a correlation result representing an interoperability configuration of the software and that at least one network component; and

means for outputting the correlation result to support automatic configuration of the at least one network component and the software for operation on the at least one network component.